

## ABSTRACT

A process of preparing methylaluminium dichloride by

- 5           (i) reacting by heating a material of the formula  $R_3Al_2X_3$ , where R is  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl and X is selected from bromine and iodine with an aluminium-containing material selected from metallic aluminium and a mixture of metallic aluminium and aluminium trichloride in an atmosphere of methyl chloride, with the proviso that when R is methyl and X is iodine, the aluminium-containing material is a
- 10           mixture of aluminium and aluminium trichloride; and
- (ii) when the aluminium-containing material is metallic aluminium, adding aluminium trichloride to this reaction mixture and heating,
- to give a crude reaction product; and
- 15           (iii) if desired, obtaining methylaluminium dichloride from this crude reaction product.

          The crude reaction product may be used directly in organic syntheses, such as the

20           cyclisation of  $\psi$ -Georgywood to give  $\beta$ -Georgywood.